

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 19 and 22 as follows:

[0019] The typical configuration described in the next paragraphs serves to illustrate the invention. ~~Fig. 1~~ The Figure shows a block diagram of a plant for the production of nitric acid with 68 % concentration, said plant using the dual pressure process and consisting of the main equipment for compression, combustion, steam generation, absorption and as indicated in this example, a two-step tail gas expansion as well as the internal heat transfer systems und surplus energy exploitation units. The following equipment items are not shown in the diagram: gas treatment, filter units, temperature fine-tuning, controls, secondary air input, etc.

[0022] Pre-compression unit (2) and NO compression (16) in conjunction with expansion steps (23 and 26) are preferably arranged on one drive shaft (27) or linked with each other via gears, said drive shaft supplying the drive energy produced in the expansion steps and required for the compression steps. The arrangement of the compression and expansion steps on drive shaft (27) is by no means restricted to the layout shown in ~~Fig. 1~~ the figure but may also be devised in a different manner. The available surplus energy is fed to generator (28) which produces electric power likewise fed to external consumers as iii the case of steam (13).